



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1406 Longworth House Office Building • Washington, D.C. 20515 • (202) 225-5506

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 2005

Contact: Stephanie Lundberg

Phone: 202-225-5506

Kind Introduces Deficit Reduction Taxpayer Giveback Bill

*Legislation Offers Opportunity to Employ Real Fiscal Responsibility; Diverts Member Office
Savings to National Debt Reduction*

Washington, DC – U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI) today reintroduced the bipartisan-supported Deficit Reduction Taxpayer Giveback Bill (HR 1273) with Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL) to offer members of Congress an opportunity to take action to reduce the national debt. Kind's bill would require members to return unused office funds from a Member's Representational Allowance (MRA) at the end of the year to the Federal Treasury for the sole purpose of deficit reduction or reducing the national debt. Although it is not required, Kind has returned money from his MRA account every year for a total taxpayer giveback of close to \$700,000.

"As a member of Congress, one of my top priorities is to make certain that taxpayer money is managed in a fiscally responsible manner," said Kind, a member of the House Budget Committee. "It is important that I lead by example and run an efficient and effective office, but I also want to ensure that the savings is used responsibly by applying it towards national debt reduction. I believe that any member of Congress who is serious about this goal should do the same."

Kind points out that despite proclaimed efforts by the administration and the Congressional majority to reduce deficit spending and restore fiscal responsibility to the nation's fiscal policy, this year's budget deficit is estimated at \$394 billion and the national debt has reached a record \$7,792 trillion. The giveback legislation seeks to require members of Congress to back up the fiscal responsibility rhetoric with action by encouraging budgetary discipline in individual offices and by applying savings specifically towards debt reduction.

"I did not come to Congress to leave my children or anyone's children with a legacy of debt," said Kind. "Our debt continues to grow along with the cost of financing that debt and make no mistake – our children are going to be left paying the bill for this recklessness."

Kind has been consistently named a "Treasury Guardian" by the Taxpayers for Common Sense, a non-partisan, fiscal watchdog group that analyzes Congressional votes. In Taxpayers' most recent fiscal responsibility scoring (2003), Kind was placed 14 out of 435 overall in the House of Representatives for his votes that would reduce government waste and promote fiscal discipline.

"As a young man, I served in the office of Sen. William Proxmire, where I interned to learn the importance of fiscal responsibility," said Kind. "It is a tradition I am proud to continue for the taxpayers of western Wisconsin."

